

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 17 is amended to address the inconsistency noted in section "3" of the Official Action. Claim 17 is also amended for other consistency and grammar purposes. Accordingly, to the extent another Official Action setting forth a new grounds for rejection of Claim 17 may issue, such a new grounds would not have been necessitated by amendment, and such an Official Action should therefore be Non-Final.

Claim 17 is rejected as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Official Action states that "Fig. 003 and paragraphs [036-038] and [044] of the instant specification teach that the interlayer 3... is first inserted between, fastened to, and assumes the shape of two curved mouldings 12, 13..." (underlining added). The Official Action goes on to state that "it is unclear how the radiant heating of the interlayer is improved by injecting a hot air jet, i.e., how convective heat transfer is achieved on an interlayer covered up by mouldings 12, 13" (underlining added).

Applicants respectfully submit that that an ordinarily skilled artisan would have understood from the specification as a whole that the mouldings 12, 13 hold the interlayer 3 so as to directly expose the interlayer 3 to, for example, the radiant heater discussed in paragraphs [038] and [039], the temperature sensor discussed in paragraph [040], the hot air jet discussed in paragraph [041], the mould 14 discussed in paragraph [042], and the cold air jet discussed in paragraph [043]. Accordingly, an ordinarily skilled artisan would have recognized that the mouldings 12, 13 are, for example, framelike, so as to constrain only the outer edges of the interlayer 3, with

the remainder of the interlayer 3 being directly exposed for processing. While paragraph [037] of the specification states that "(t)he films are fastened to the mouldings 12, 13 by a snap fastening system, the edge subjected to pinching...", that portion of the specification does not state that the mouldings 12, 13 cover the entire interlayer 3 or that the entire interlayer 3 assumes the shape of the mouldings 12, 13. Instead, that portion discusses using a snap fastening system and pinching the edge of the interlayer 3. Moreover, the cross-sectional view of Fig. 003 of the specification does not show the mouldings 12, 13 "covering up" the interlayer 3. Instead, that figure illustrates, *inter alia*, that the curvature of the mouldings 12, 13 is similar to the curvature of the outer edges of the mould 14.

In view of the above discussion, an ordinarily skilled artisan would have understood that, to the extent the interlayer 3 may assume the shape of the mouldings 12, 13, only the outer edges of the interlayer 3 would assume such a shape. Moreover, to the extent the mouldings 12, 13 may cover a portion of the interlayer 3, only the outer edges of interlayer 3 would be covered. Accordingly, an ordinarily skilled artisan would have recognized that a hot air jet can pretension of the interlayer 3 while the interlayer 3 is held by the mouldings 12, 13.

Claim 17 is therefore enabled, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 is also rejected as being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO91/19586, hereinafter Kavanagh, in view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2001/0007270, hereinafter Balduin, and U.S. Patent No. 3,900,673, hereinafter Mattimoe.

Kavanagh discloses a process for forming a laminate. As discussed in the first full paragraph on page ten of Kavanagh, a heater 48 is energized to raise the temperature of a composite 70, and a negative pressure is created within a lower chamber 34 or pressure is developed in an upper chamber 32 to draw and stretch the composite 70 against a mold 26. The Official Action states that the drawing and stretching of the composite 70 against the mold 26 constitutes pretensioning prior to thermoforming. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Even assuming for the sake of discussion that the drawing and stretching of the composite 70 against the mold 26 may constitute a "pretensioning", Applicants respectfully submit that, to the extent Kavanagh may disclose thermoforming, such thermoforming would include the drawing and stretching of the composite against the mold 26, i.e., Kavanagh's "pretensioning". Accordingly, Kavanagh does not disclose "pretensioning" prior to thermoforming. If anything, the "pretensioning" occurs during thermoforming. Moreover, neither Balduin nor Mattimoe cure the above-noted deficiencies in Kavanagh.

Accordingly, none of Kavanagh, Balduin or Mattimoe, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests a process for the production of a curved laminated glass pane comprising a first glass sheet and a second corresponding glass sheet, together with an interlayer comprising at least one bioriented thermoplastic functional layer and at least one layer of a bonding resin, wherein, before a thermoforming step, the at least one bioriented thermoplastic functional layer and at least one layer of a bonding resin are heated and, during such heating, a hot air jet is injected from the bottom so as to effect a pretensioning of the at least one functional layer, in combination with the other aspects of the method recited in Claim 17.

Claim 17 is therefore allowable over Kavanagh in view of Balduin and Mattimoe, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

New Claim 37 recites a process for the production of a curved laminated glass pane including a first glass glazing and a second corresponding glass glazing, together with an interlayer comprising at least one bioriented thermoplastic functional layer and at least one layer of a bonding resin adhered to the at least one biooriented thermoplastic functional layer, the process including contacting the at least one functional layer with a mould so as to thermoform, on the mould, the at least one functional layer together with the at least one layer of a bonding resin, in a configuration substantially corresponding to an end shape of the curved laminated glass pane, positioning the interlayer between the two glass glazings and applying pressure and heat to form a laminated glazing showing the end shape, and, prior to contacting the at least one functional layer with the mould, heating the at least one functional layer while injecting hot air so as to effect a pretensioning of the at least one functional layer.

New Claim 37 is also allowable over Kavanagh, Balduin and Mattimoe. For example, none of those references discloses, prior to contacting at least one functional layer with a mould, heating the at least one functional layer while injecting hot air so as to effect a pretensioning of the at least one functional layer.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claim 17. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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